



## **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEKLY UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF March 31, 2009**

### **Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster**

Hoping your school year is going well. I know this is the crazy time, with district and state FFA conventions, various CDE events, award applications etc.

It is very busy on our end too. Bill and the officers are getting prepared for State Conference in Great Falls March 25 - 28. It looks to be a very exciting, outstanding conference.

Just a reminder to all of you - if you did NOT submit your enrollment report for state CTE funding, get it to me ASAP. We are busy with the regional Perkins workshops, with an emphasis on Pathways. We hope to see you all at one of the sessions. If you need more information, let me know.

If you were not able to attend one of the regional NQPS training sessions last fall, I strongly encourage you to participate at either Great Falls or Miles City on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Some of you have contacted me already, thank you. If you have not, please let me know which site you will be attending. Your program and approval for next year depends on it!

Chad and the officers are already planning the summer Update Conference. This summer's conference will be in Red Lodge June 22-26. Please plan to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **Business, Management and Information Systems Cluster**

Model pathways for the Business, Management and Information Systems Cluster were determined by the committee during the February 22 meeting in Helena at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. The model pathways recommended were at the cluster level in the areas of Marketing, Sales and Service, Information Technology, Business, Management and Administration and Finance. These models are available at the **[bigskycareers.com](http://bigskycareers.com)** website.

It was reported that the June 15-18 Tech Prep conference has been cancelled. Brenda Rudolph, Flathead Valley Community College reported on a list of courses that have been completed at the post-secondary level for common course numbering. All courses in all colleges are being viewed and assigned a common number. This process will eventually give students the opportunity to transfer quite easily throughout colleges in the state. Another benefit is the opportunity to articulate courses. We will have a listing of the course outcomes for these courses all numbered the same, and when a high school agrees to meet those outcomes a course can easily be articulated. Occupational courses will be the next phase of the process and those courses should be renumbered by next fall.

The committee discussed the possibility of having some pathways training at the Business Education summer institute professional development in Great Falls June 8-12, 2009. Linda Corr-Mahugh reported on the developing partnership with Montana Career Information System and the potential for secondary and post-secondary pathways being constructed through this resource website. The committee identified two courses for secondary/post-secondary articulation. Those courses are Beginning Accounting and Microsoft WORD. The committee looks forward to working toward developing knowledge and skills statements as well as assessments to make course completion and dual credit available for students in the fall of 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **Health Sciences Career Cluster**

### **Health Sciences Technology Education Update**

We are currently preparing for our annual HOSA State Leadership Conference, March 19-21st, 2009 in Missoula. Health Occupations of America (HOSA) has over 50 competitive events for secondary and post-secondary chapters. These events will be held at the University of Montana and the Missoula COT. Students then have a selection of educational symposiums planned that broaden their understanding of the field of health professions.

What is HOSA?

HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the US Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education (HSTE) Division of ACTE. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA's goal is to encourage all health sciences instructors and students to join and be actively involved in the HSTE-HOSA partnership. HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for high school, post-secondary, adult and collegiate students enrolled in HSTE programs. HOSA is 100% health care. Since its inception in 1976, HOSA has grown steadily reaching nearly 100,000 members through 47 charted HOSA State Associations.

HOSA is not a club to which a few students in school join. Rather, HOSA is a powerful instructional tool that works best when it is integrated into the HSTE curriculum and classroom. HSTE instructors are committed to the development of the total person. Those who join the HSTE-HOSA Partnership recognize the importance of providing students with training far beyond the basic technical skills needed for entry into the health care field. The rapidly changing health care system needs dedicated workers who, in addition to their technical skills, are people-oriented and capable of playing a leadership or fellowship role as a member of a health care team.

HOSA's mission is especially critical when considering the acute shortage of qualified workers for the health care industry. It is essential that the HSTE-HOSA Partnership maintain its momentum and encourage all HSTE instructors to integrate HOSA into their curriculum and classrooms.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **Family and Consumer Sciences Education Human Services & Resources Career Cluster**

There are five Big Sky Pathway Technical Assistance Trainings remaining on the calendar. Please attend one of these meetings if you would like assistance on developing pathways in Human Services and/or Hospitality & Tourism. I will be present at each meeting to assist with development and answer questions as a representative of the Human Services Development Group.

February was a busy month for FCCLA in the state of Montana. I attended the FCCLA State Advisers Management Meeting in Nashville, TN from February 18 – 22. Seven FCCLA State Officers attended the MACTE Rotunda Days on February 24. Also during the MACTE Rotunda Days, Manhattan, Three Forks and Sheridan FCCLA chapters hosted displays and visited with legislators regarding their FCCLA chapter projects and family and consumer sciences education. Currently, FCCLA chapters are busy preparing for the upcoming State Leadership Conference "Save the Day: Unleash Your Powers with FCCLA" to be held in Billings from March 19 – 21.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems Cluster**

The Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems cluster meeting was held on March 10, 2009 with the following minutes:

The idea of offering the training sessions at the MACTE fall conference in Billings was suggested and entertained as a viable option, as the teachers would already be gathered together for the conference and it would offer the convenience of attending the conference and training at the same time. The probability needs to be looked into further along with what training sessions would be the best choices.

### **Articulation Next Steps**

Step 1: bring postsecondary together to develop basic skills, standards, and identify instructors.

Step 2: bring secondary instructors on board to develop core content.

Step 3: obtain articulation agreement.

### **Other Agenda items**

Discussion entailed around using the correct terminology for dual credit/tech prep courses.

Assessment exam testing was discussed and what the correct procedure is for administering the test and accurate evaluation of the student's knowledge and skills. Further guidelines are expected from the SELT Team.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

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